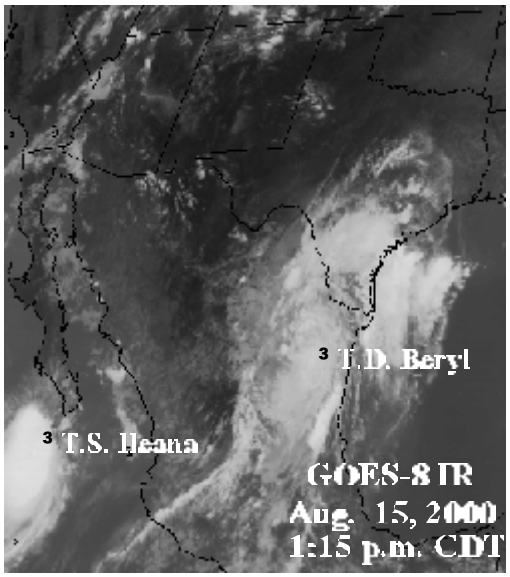
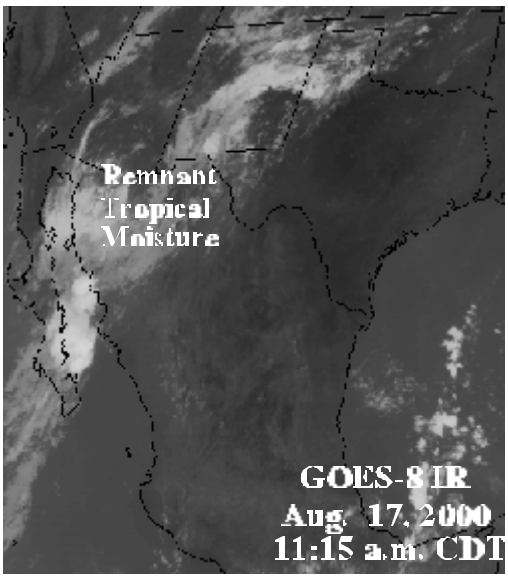


Early on August 15, Tropical Storm Beryl made landfall in Tamaulipas, Mexico, about 115 miles south of Brownsville, Texas, with maximum sustained winds near 50 mph. A few hours later over the eastern Pacific Ocean (left), Tropical Storm Ileana passed about 50 miles south of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, the southern tip of Baja California. Ileana's maximum sustained winds were estimated near 70 mph. Beryl's remnants moved across the Rio Grande Valley into New Mexico before being absorbed by a cold front. Moisture associated with Ileana was also drawn into the monsoonal flow, contributing to an enhancement of seasonal showers across northwestern Mexico and the southwestern United States (right).



(Continued from front cover)

Kansas. Unfavorably dry weather returned to the drought-stricken **Southeast**, where high temperatures frequently ranged from 95 to 105°F. In contrast, very cool weather prevailed in the **Northwest** and **Northeast**, holding weekly temperatures as much as 7°F below normal. Despite cooler conditions in the **Northwest**, continued dry and occasionally breezy weather maintained unusually vigorous wildfire activity. In the **Southwest**, however, remnant moisture from former Tropical Storms Beryl (**Atlantic Basin**) and Ileana (**Pacific Basin**) contributed to a beneficial increase in seasonal shower activity. Beryl made landfall early on August 15, about 115 miles south of **Brownsville, TX**, bringing light but beneficial pre-planting showers to **southern Texas'** winter crop areas.

In **Illinois**, temperatures finally attained the 90-degree mark in locations such as **Peoria** (91°F on August 14) and **Springfield** (91°F on August 15). Previously, records for the latest first occurrence of 90-degree heat had been set on July 22, 1960, in **Peoria**, and July 16, 1904 in **Springfield**. Elsewhere in **Illinois**, **Chicago** (92°F on August 15) also experienced their first 90-degree day, their latest such observance since September 14, 1915. **Moline, IL** reached 92°F on August 14 and 15, giving the city 4 days of 90-degree heat this year (the other days were June 1 and 8, which featured highs of 90°F). In a normal year, **Moline** experiences 15 days of 90-degree heat through July and 21 days by the end of August.

Meanwhile in **Colorado**, the year-to-date number of days with highs at or above 90°F reached 53 in **Denver** and 79 in **Grand Junction**, approaching the stations' records of 60 days in 1994 and 90 days in 1977, respectively. **North Platte, NE** recorded 16 consecutive days of 90-degree heat from August 1-16, their longest such streak since a 20-day hot spell from August 25 - September 13, 1990. **North Platte's** January 1 - August 19 total of 48 days with highs at or above 90°F is well above the annual normal of 34, and represents their greatest annual sum since 48 such days were also observed in 1995. In **Kansas**, **Wichita's** 6 consecutive days of triple-digit heat from August 11-16 marked their longest string of 100-degree readings since June 23-29, 1998. **Hill City, KS** registered 108°F on Monday, tying their all-time record for August. Farther north, Saturday's high of 82°F in **Helena, MT** was their last of 44 consecutive days (July 7 - August 19) with highs at or above 80°F. **Helena's** previous record of 38 such days had been set in July-August 1967.

In the **South**, three consecutive daily-record highs were set in **Huntsville, AL** (97, 99, and 102°F) from August 15-17, **El Dorado, AR** (106, 106, and 108°F) from August 16-18, and **Columbus, GA** (102, 104, and 100°F) from August 17-19. **Memphis, TN** logged 103°F on Thursday, their highest reading since a maximum of 104°F on July 31, 1986. For **El Dorado**, Friday's heat represented their hottest day since a high of 108°F on August 19, 1999. Cooler air edged toward the **Southeast** at week's end, while temperatures fell sharply across the **Midwest** and **Northeast**. On Friday, **Huron, SD** posted a daily-record low of 44°F, just 4 days after a record high of 102°F. A day later in **Wisconsin**, **Rhinelander's** low of 37°F was a record low for August 19.

Locally heavy rainfall eased soil moisture shortages on the **central High Plains** and boosted month-to-date totals to 2.27 inches in **Denver, CO** and 1.64 inches in **Cheyenne, WY**. Denver's sum was aided by a 1.45-inch total on August 17. In **Arizona**, **Flagstaff's** August 1-19 precipitation totaled 1.90 inches, accounting for 21 percent of their year-to-date total. Despite the areas of improved moisture in the **West**, the Nation's year-to-date wildfire acreage topped 5.5 million acres by the end of the week, more than 220 percent of the 10-year average. About 45 percent of the burned acreage was in the **Great Basin** and **northern Rockies**. Farther east, the remnants of Tropical Storm Beryl deposited generally an inch of rain or less in **southern Texas**. Nevertheless, **Corpus Christi, TX** tallied a daily-record rainfall (0.79 inch) on August 15.

At week's end, remnant moisture from former eastern Pacific Hurricane Hector reached the **Hawaiian Islands**. On the **Big Island**, **Pahala** noted a 24-hour (August 19-20) total of 2.58 inches, while on **Oahu**, **Maunawili** recorded 3.71 inches. Elsewhere on **Oahu**, 24-hour rainfall totaled 6.91 inches at the **Wilson Tunnel**. Meanwhile in **Alaska**, cool conditions persisted across interior sections (weekly temperatures averaged as much as 7°F below normal), while unusually warm weather prevailed in southern areas (up to 5°F above normal). On Sunday, August 13, **Kodiak** collected a daily-record high of 77°F. Three days later in the **Yukon River** drainage basin, an early-season freeze brought a daily-record low of 30°F to **Bettles**, and produced minima of 23°F in **Eagle** and 27°F in **Central**.